

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A frangible coupling for the purpose of supporting a rotatable load having a first ring, a second ~~ring and ring~~, a plurality of ligaments and a load magnification member, said first ring and second ring interconnected by said plurality of ligaments, said ligaments with the load magnification member provided on the first ring or rotatable load, there being a small clearance maintained between said members and ligaments adjacent thereto, configured to fail such that, in use, when a load of a predetermined value causes the first and second ring to move relative to one another by a predetermined ~~amount~~, amount, thereby bringing at least one ligament into contact with said load magnification member, at least one ligament is caused to fail.

2. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said ligaments are substantially axially aligned.

3. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed claim 1 wherein the first and second rings are cylindrical.

4. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ligaments are equidistantly spaced apart.

5. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first ring and the second ring are coaxial.

6. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first ring and the second ring are concentric.

7. (Currently Amended) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the load magnification member on the first ring is formed with as a flange that is provided with a plurality of semi-circular cross-section cut out portions each of which corresponds closely to

at least part of the outside diameter of the ligaments a ligament part way along the ligaments,
~~thereby there being defining~~ a small clearance maintained between the ligaments and their
corresponding cut out portions in the flange.

8. (Currently Amended) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 7 wherein at
least one ligament is formed with a stress raising feature in the region ~~where~~ where, when a
load of a predetermined value causes the first and second ring to move relative to one another
by a predetermined amount, the at least one ligament ~~it is~~ designed to contact the flange ~~when~~
~~a load of a predetermined value causes the first and second ring to move relative to one~~
~~another by a predetermined amount thereby increasing the stress concentration in the at least~~
one ligament to a level where the at least one ligament fails.

9. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 7 wherein each of the
ligaments have at least one waisted section.

10. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 7 wherein the first ring is
in communication with a means for supporting a rotatable load.

11. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 10 wherein the second
ring is fixedly joined to a fan support structure.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein a
rotatable shaft is in communication with said first ring via a bearing support means, the load
magnification member is a rotatable member on the rotatable shaft ~~said rotatable shaft being~~
~~fixedly joined to a rotatable member~~ positioned between and coaxially with the first and
second ring, thereby defining a small clearance between the said member and the ligaments
adjacent ~~thereto~~ thereto, such that when a load of predetermined value causes the first and
second ring to move relative to one another by a predetermined amount, the at least one

ligament is designed to contact the member thereby increasing the stress concentration in the at least one ligament to a level where the at least one ligament fails.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A frangible coupling as claimed in ~~claim 14~~ claim 13 wherein the rotatable member is a disc formed with at least one snub which extends substantially radially outward from the rotatable member, there being a small clearance maintained between the said snub and the ligaments adjacent thereto.